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1. [redacted] of SED members in the Volksrat Wilhelm Pieck spoke on the consequences in the Volksrat Secretariat of Erich Gniffke's defection. He emphasized the necessity that all party members in important posts work courageously in the interests of the party and above all maintain the utmost vigilance over all suspicious elements. The case of Gniffke, he said, indicated their failure in this regard. Although the party and surveillance apparatus (Überwachungsapparat) in Gniffke's office uncovered his deviations, they failed to forward them for action. Even more important, Gniffke's preparations for flight were actually concealed by certain members of the apparatus. The result was that only at the last minute could party proceedings be initiated against Gniffke.
2. Gniffke's guilt has been conclusively demonstrated, Pieck said, and the case represents an urgent warning for all. Reliable members of the apparatus are aware that many members of the Volksrat are agents of the Western Powers, consequently, investigation of the Gniffke affair calls for an investigation of the entire administrative organization (Verwaltungsapparat) of the Volksrat. The tendency of members to succumb to the enticements of the bourgeois parties may be counteracted by the solemn assurance that sooner or later their disloyalty will be discovered. The reporting of the western-licensed press gives enough clues as to who has tattled, and party vigilance will increase.
3. Pieck concluded with the information that Hermann Matern will succeed Gniffke as Chairman of the Secretariat of the Volksrat.

Comment: Pieck, in speaking of the "Überwachungsapparat" appeared to refer to a specific vigilance and surveillance organization within the framework of the Volksrat charged with detection of deviations among the personnel. The apparatus, according to rumor within Volksrat SED circles, is headed by F. Otto and Albert Norden. The immediate result of Gniffke's defection has been to place all non-SED members of the Volksrat and its administration, notably Von Mutius, under suspicion.)

BY CABLE

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